

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**In the Claims:**

1-25. CANCELED.

26. (NEW) A method of popping corn in a plurality of batches from batches of corn and oil loaded into a kettle, beginning with a cold start batch and then subsequent batches, including the step of:

for a cold start batch, applying heat to the kettle according to a first temperature control to pop the popping corn of the cold start batch within the kettle; and

for subsequent batches, applying heat to the kettle according to a second temperature control to pop the popping corn of subsequent batches within the kettle.

27. (NEW) The method of claim 26 wherein the first temperature control heats the kettle to a maximum first temperature.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 27 wherein the second temperature control heats the kettle to a maximum second temperature.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 28 wherein the first maximum temperature is higher than the second maximum temperature.

30. (NEW) A method of popping corn in a plurality of batches from batches of corn and oil loaded into a kettle, beginning with a cold start batch and then subsequent batches, including the steps of:

for a cold start batch, applying heat to the kettle so that the kettle reaches a thermal equilibrium during the popping cycle of the cold start batch to pop the popping corn of the cold start batch; and

for subsequent batches, popping the popping corn of the subsequent batches while the kettle has obtained thermal equilibrium.